

# Message from the Governor

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Our state has been tested these past few years by an economic storm of historic proportions. But we are emerging from the recession, and I believe we now have an opportunity before us to rebuild our economy so it is more diverse and resilient than ever. As governor, I will do everything in my power to seize this moment.

Our number one priority is revitalizing Washington's economy and building a 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce. To do that, we must start with a strong commitment to education — and we must ensure that our investments get results. That is the driving principle behind my Working Washington Agenda, which lays out my vision for revitalizing our economy and creating jobs.



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Today, I am putting forward my priorities for the 2013–15 budget — priorities that I believe take a big step to ensure that every child receives an excellent education and every worker gains the skills he or she needs to succeed in today's economy. At a time when the state is failing to meet its obligations to education, these investments include important accountability measures so we can be sure your dollars are being spent wisely.

My budget priorities also protect our most vulnerable citizens and make strategic investments in clean energy research and development as well as key industry sectors such as aerospace and agriculture. Another key priority is to significantly expand state government's performance management work so we deliver better services while we make the most of every tax dollar.

I recognize that others may have different priorities. But as we construct a budget for the next two years, we must take a broader and more critical view than we have in the past. It's time to start giving tax exemptions and loopholes the same level of scrutiny we've given the rest of the state budget. And I believe it is time to end tax breaks that simply do not outweigh Washington's urgent need to better fund education.

In this document you will find the details of investments I believe need to be made now to help us rebuild the economy and take steps to adequately fund education.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Jay Inslee". The signature is fluid and stylized, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.